

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION**

**IN RE:** ) **Case No. 16-35211**  
            )  
**TOM TZIOUFAS,**     ) **Chapter 13**  
            )  
**Debtor**             ) **Judge A. Benjamin Goldgar**

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

To: See Attached Service List

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on March 17, 2017, at 11:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, I shall appear before the Honorable A. Benjamin Goldgar, 1792 Nicole Lane, Round Lake Beach, IL 60073, and then and there present ATTORNEY'S APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION FOR REPRESENTING CHAPTER 13 DEBTOR(S), a copy of which is attached hereto and herewith served upon you.

/s/ David R. Herzog

David R. Herzog  
HERZOG & SCHWARTZ, P.C.  
Attorneys for the Debtor  
77 West Washington Street  
Suite 1400  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
ARDC No. 01203681

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned, an attorney, certifies that he caused to be served a copy of the foregoing instrument on the attached service list via the ECF System or by enclosing same in an envelope addressed to them via the Court's ECF system and/or with postage fully prepaid, and by depositing the envelope in the U.S. Mail at 77 W. Washington Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602, on this 24th day of February, 2017.

/s/ David R. Herzog

**SERVICE LIST**

**VIA ECF**

Office of the U.S. Trustee  
219 S Dearborn St  
Room 873  
Chicago, IL 60604

Marilyn O Marshall  
224 South Michigan  
Suite 800  
Chicago, IL 60604

Nick Lembessis  
Athena Lembessis  
Joel A. Schechter  
53 West Jackson Blvd.  
Ste 1522  
Chicago, IL 60604

S & A Pax Incorporated  
Joel A. Schechter  
53 West Jackson Blvd.  
Ste 1522  
Chicago, IL 60604

Glenn B Stearns  
801 Warrenville Road  
Suite 650  
Lisle, IL 60532

**VIA REGULAR MAIL**

Corporate Facilities Services, Inc.  
c/o Konstantine Sparagis  
900 W. Jackson Blvd., Ste. 4E  
Chicago, IL 60607

First Security Credit Union  
7161 N. Cicero Ave.  
Suite 202  
Lincolnwood, IL 60712

Kristyn A Dunn  
Trunkett & Trunkett PC  
20 N Wacker Dr Suite 1434  
Chicago, IL 60606

Quantum3 Group LLC as agent for  
Oliphant Financial Group LLC  
PO Box 788  
Kirkland, WA 98083-0788

Tempoe  
1750 Elm St Suite 1200  
Manchester, NH 03104

## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

## NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

## Eastern Division

In Re: ) BK No.: 16-35211  
Tom Tzioufas )  
 ) Chapter: 13  
 ) Honorable A. Benjamin Goldgar  
 ) Lake County  
Debtor(s) )

**ATTORNEY'S APPLICATION FOR CHAPTER 13 COMPENSATION UNDER  
THE COURT-APPROVED RETENTION AGREEMENT**  
**(Use for cases filed on or after April 20, 2015)**

The undersigned attorney seeks compensation pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 330(a)(4)(B) and the **Court-Approved Retention Agreement** executed by the debtor(s) and the attorney, for representing the interests of the debtor(s) in this case.

**Use of Court-Approved Retention Agreement:**

The attorney and the debtor(s) have entered into the Court-Approved Retention Agreement.

**Attorney Certification:**

The attorney hereby certifies that:

1. All disclosures required by General Order No. 11-2 have been made.
2. The attorney and the debtor(s) have either:
  - (i) not entered into any other agreements that provide for the attorney to receive:
    - a. any kind of compensation, reimbursement, or other payment, or
    - b. any form of, or security for, compensation, reimbursement, or other payment that varies from the Court-Approved Retention Agreement; or
  - (ii) have specifically discussed and understand that:
    - a. the Bankruptcy Code may require a debtor's attorney to provide the debtor with certain documents and agreements at the start of the representation;
    - b. the terms of the Court-Approved Retention Agreement take the place of any conflicting provision in an earlier agreement;
    - c. the Court-Approved Retention Agreement cannot be modified in any way by other agreements; and
    - d. any provision of another agreement between the debtor and the attorney that conflicts with the Court-Approved Retention Agreement is void.

**Compensation sought for services in this case pursuant to the Court-Approved Retention Agreement:**

\$ 2,500.00 flat fee for services through case closing

**Reimbursement sought for expenses in this case:**

\$ 310.00 for filing fee paid by the attorney with the attorney's funds

\$ 0 for other expenses incurred in connection with the case and paid by the attorney with the attorney's funds (itemization must be attached)

\$ 310.00 Total reimbursement requested for expenses.

**Funds previously paid to the attorney by or on behalf of the debtor(s) in the year before filing this case and not reflected in or related to the Court-Approved Retention Agreement:**

None

A total of \$ .

Date of Application: 02/24/2017

Attorney Signature /s/ David R. Herzog

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
AMENDED  
RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
CHAPTER 13 DEBTORS AND THEIR ATTORNEYS**

**(Court-Approved Retention Agreement, Use for cases filed on or after September 19, 2016)**

Chapter 13 gives debtors important rights, such as the right to keep property that could otherwise be lost through repossession or foreclosure, but Chapter 13 also puts burdens on debtors, such as the burden of making complete and truthful disclosures of their financial situation. It is important for debtors who file a Chapter 13 bankruptcy case to understand their rights and responsibilities in bankruptcy. In this connection, the advice of an attorney is often crucial. Debtors are entitled to certain services from their attorneys, but debtors also have responsibilities to their attorneys. In order to assure that debtors and their attorneys understand their rights and responsibilities in the Chapter 13 process, the judges of the Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois have approved this agreement, setting out the rights and responsibilities of both debtors in Chapter 13 and their attorneys, including how their attorneys will be paid for their services in the Chapter 13 case. By signing this agreement, debtors and their attorneys accept these responsibilities.

The Bankruptcy Code may require a debtor's attorney to provide the debtor with certain documents and agreements at the start of the representation. The terms of this court-approved agreement take the place of any conflicting provision in an earlier agreement. This agreement cannot be modified in any way by other agreements. Any provision of another agreement between the debtor and the attorney that conflicts with this agreement is void.

**A. BEFORE THE CASE IS FILED**

**THE DEBTOR AGREES TO:**

1. Discuss with the attorney the debtor's objectives in filing the case.
2. Provide the attorney with full, accurate and timely information, financial and otherwise, including properly documented proof of income.

**THE ATTORNEY AGREES TO:**

1. Personally counsel the debtor regarding the advisability of filing either a Chapter 13 or a Chapter 7 case, discuss both procedures (as well as non-bankruptcy options) with the debtor, and answer the debtor's questions.
2. Personally explain to the debtor that the attorney is being engaged to represent the debtor on all matters arising in the case, as required by Local Bankruptcy Rule, and explain how and when the attorney's fees and the trustee's fees are determined and paid.

3. Personally review with the debtor and sign the completed petition, plan, statements, and schedules, as well as all amendments thereto, whether filed with the petition or later. (The schedules may be initially prepared with the help of clerical or paralegal staff of the attorney's office, but personal attention of the attorney is required for the review and signing.)
4. Timely prepare and file the debtor's petition, plan, statements, and schedules.
5. Explain to the debtor how, when, and where to make all necessary payments, including both payments that must be made directly to creditors and payments that must be made to the Chapter 13 trustee, with particular attention to housing and vehicle payments.
6. Advise the debtor of the need to maintain appropriate insurance.

***B. AFTER THE CASE IS FILED***

THE DEBTOR AGREES TO:

1. Make the required payments to the trustee and to whatever creditors are being paid directly or, if required payments cannot be made, notify the attorney immediately.
2. Appear punctually at the meeting of creditors (also called the "341 meeting") with recent proof of income and a picture identification card. (If the identification card does not include the debtor's social security number, the debtor must also bring to the meeting a social security card.) The debtor must be present in time for check-in and, when the case is called, for the actual examination.
3. Notify the attorney of any change in the debtor's address or telephone number.
4. Inform the attorney of any wage garnishments or liens or levies on assets that occur or continue after the filing of the case.
5. Contact the attorney immediately if the debtor loses employment, has a significant change in income, or experiences any other significant change in financial situation (such as serious illness, marriage, divorce or separation, lottery winnings, or an inheritance).
6. Notify the attorney if the debtor is sued or wishes to file a lawsuit (including divorce).
7. Inform the attorney if any tax refunds to which the debtor is entitled are seized or not received when due from the IRS or Illinois Department of Revenue.
8. Contact the attorney before buying, refinancing, or selling real property and before entering into any loan agreement.
9. Supply the attorney with copies of all tax returns filed while the case is pending.

THE ATTORNEY AGREES TO:

1. Advise the debtor of the requirement to attend the meeting of creditors and notify the debtor of the date, time, and place of the meeting.
2. Inform the debtor that the debtor must be punctual and, in the case of a joint filing, that both spouses must appear at the same meeting.
3. Provide knowledgeable legal representation for the debtor at the meeting of creditors (in time for check-in and the actual examination) and, unless excused by the trustee, for the confirmation hearing.
4. If the attorney will be employing another attorney to attend the 341 meeting or any court hearing, personally explain to the debtor, in advance, the role and identity of the other attorney and provide the other attorney with the file in sufficient time to review it and properly represent the debtor.
5. Timely submit to the Chapter 13 trustee properly documented proof of income for the debtor, including business reports for self-employed debtors.
6. Timely respond to objections to plan confirmation and, where necessary, prepare, file, and serve an amended plan.
7. Timely prepare, file, and serve any necessary statements, amended statements, and schedules and any change of address, in accordance with information provided by the debtor.
8. Monitor all incoming case information (including, but not limited to, Order Confirming Plan, Notice of Intent to Pay Claims, and 6-month status reports) for accuracy and completeness. Contact the trustee promptly regarding any discrepancies.
9. Be available to respond to the debtor's questions throughout the term of the plan.
10. Prepare, file, and serve timely modifications to the plan after confirmation, when necessary, including modifications to suspend, lower, or increase plan payments.
11. Prepare, file, and serve necessary motions to buy or sell property and to incur debt.
12. Object to improper or invalid claims.
13. Timely respond to the Chapter 13 trustee's motions to dismiss the case, such as for payment default or unfeasibility, and to motions to increase the percentage payment to unsecured creditors.
14. Timely respond to motions for relief from stay.
15. Prepare, file, and serve all appropriate motions to avoid liens.
16. Prepare, file, and serve a notice of conversion to Chapter 7, pursuant to § 1307(a) of the Bankruptcy Code and Local Bankruptcy Rule 1017-1.
17. Provide any other legal services necessary for the administration of the case.

**C. TERMINATION OR CONVERSION OF THE CASE AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER APPROVING FEES AND EXPENSES**

1. Approved fees and expenses paid under the provisions set out below are generally not refundable in the event that the case is dismissed prior to its completion, unless the dismissal is due to a failure by the attorney to comply with the duties set out in this agreement. If such a dismissal is due to a failure by the attorney, the court may order a refund of fees on motion by the debtor.
2. If the case is dismissed after approval of the fees and expenses but before payment of all allowed fees and expenses, the order entered by the Bankruptcy Court allowing the fees and expenses is not a judgment against the debtor for the unpaid fees and expenses based on contract law or otherwise.
3. If the case is converted to a case under Chapter 7 after approval of the fees and expenses under this agreement but before the payment of all fees and expenses, the attorney will be entitled to an administrative claim in the Chapter 7 case for any unpaid fees and expenses, pursuant to § 726(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, plus any conversion fee the attorney pays on behalf of the debtor.

**D. RETAINERS AND PREVIOUS PAYMENTS**

1. The attorney may receive a retainer or other payment before filing the case but may not receive fees directly from the debtor after the filing of the case. Unless the following provision is checked and completed, any retainer received by the attorney will be treated as a security retainer, to be placed in the attorney's client trust account until approval of a fee application by the court.

The attorney seeks to have the retainer received by the attorney treated as an advance payment retainer, which allows the attorney to take the retainer into income immediately. The attorney hereby provides the following further information and representations:

- (a) The special purpose for the advance payment retainer and why it is advantageous to the debtor is as follows:  

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- (b) The retainer will not be held in a client trust account and will become property of the attorney upon payment and will be deposited into the attorney's general account;
- (c) The retainer is a flat fee for the services to be rendered during the Chapter 13 case and will be applied for such services without the need for the attorney to keep detailed hourly time records for the specific services performed for the debtor;

- (d) Any portion of the retainer that is not earned or required for expenses will be refunded to the client; and
  - (e) The attorney is unwilling to represent the debtor without receiving an advanced payment retainer because of the nature of the Chapter 13 case, the fact that the great majority of services for such case are performed prior to its filing, and the risks associated with the representation of debtors in bankruptcy cases in general.
2. In any application for compensation, the attorney must disclose to the court any fees or other compensation paid by the debtor to the attorney for any reason within the one year before the case filing, including the date(s) any such fees were paid.

#### **E. CONDUCT AND DISCHARGE**

1. *Improper conduct by the attorney.* If the debtor disputes the sufficiency or quality of the legal services provided or the amount of the fees charged by the attorney, the debtor may file an objection with the court and request a hearing.
2. *Improper conduct by the debtor.* If the attorney believes that the debtor is not complying with the debtor's responsibilities under this agreement or is otherwise engaging in improper conduct, the attorney may apply for a court order allowing the attorney to withdraw from the case.
3. *Discharge of the attorney.* The debtor may discharge the attorney at any time.

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**F. ALLOWANCE AND PAYMENT OF ATTORNEYS' FEES AND EXPENSES**

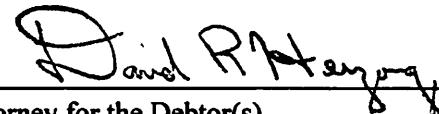
1. Any attorney retained to represent a debtor in a Chapter 13 case is responsible for representing the debtor on all matters arising in the case unless otherwise ordered by the court. For all of the services outlined above, the attorney will be paid a flat fee of \$ 2500.00.
2. In addition, the debtor will pay the filing fee in the case and other expenses of \$ 310.00.
3. Before signing this agreement, the attorney received \$ 0 \_\_\_\_\_ toward the flat fee, leaving a balance due of \$ 0 \_\_\_\_\_; and \$ 0 \_\_\_\_\_ for expenses, leaving a balance due of \$ 2810.00 \_\_\_\_\_.
4. In extraordinary circumstances, such as extended evidentiary hearings or appeals, the attorney may apply to the court for additional compensation for these services. Any such application must be accompanied by an itemization of the services rendered, showing the date, the time expended, and the identity of the attorney performing the services. The debtor must be served with a copy of the application and notified of the right to appear in court to object.

Date: 2/25/17

Signed:

  
TOM TZIONETS

Debtor(s)

  
David R. Hartung

Attorney for the Debtor(s)

Do not sign this agreement if the amounts are blank.